

Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)

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What is the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program?

The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) provides fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables from Kentucky farmers' markets to the dinner tables of low-income seniors, and to women, infants, and children (WIC) who are nutritionally at-risk. Across the United States, obesity has escalated. And because of obesity, many people have died due to obesity-related diseases such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and high blood pressure. The program was constructed to help fight against those diseases and help targeted groups to achieve a diet that is nutritionally sound. The program also endeavors to provide farmers with additional revenue at Kentucky farmers' markets.

How is it structured in Kentucky?

Currently, there are 52 farmers' markets participating in the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. Absolutely, there is more of a demand for the program than a supply of funding. Each year, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture completes a grant application for FMNP and sends for its approval to USDA. Once the grant is approved, USDA grants Kentucky with a particular amount of funding, depending on the funds made available.

Criteria for a Market to Accept Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Vouchers

- The market must be an established market. To be considered "established" the market must be registered as a legal entity with Secretary of State.
- The market must have been listed with Kentucky Department of Agriculture for a minimum of one growing season before application.
- The market must have fresh Kentucky-grown produce.

How do markets apply?

Farmers' Markets that are interested in applying for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program can call Food Distribution at (502)573-0282 or may find the application on the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's website, www.kyagr.com. The applications are competitive and must be received no later than September 30 for the next year's season. Present participating markets do not need to apply unless they are requesting participation in additional programs – i.e. the market participates only in the WIC program and wishes to expand to the Senior program. The amount of federal dollars that are received for Farmers' Market Nutrition Program determines the number of new farmers' markets that we include in the program.

Applications received will be rated according to the following:

1. What is the number of WIC and senior recipients in the county?
2. Is the number of participating farmers sufficient to provide a variety of eligible produce over a long season?
3. How accessible is the market to WIC and Senior recipients?

2005 Farmers' Markets participating in the Farmers' Markets Nutrition Program

MARKET NAME
Adair County Farmers' Market
Allen County Farmers' Market
Anderson County Farmers' Market
Cave City Farmers' Market
Bath County Farmers' Market
Bourbon County Farmers' Market
Boyd County Farmers' Market
Riverview Farmers' Market
Carter County Farmers' Market
Edmonson County Farmers' Market
Elliott County Farmers' Market
Franklin County Farmers' Market
Garrard County Farmers' Market
Dry Ridge Farmers' Market
Henry County Extension Council
Pennyrile Area Farmers' Market
Jackson County Farmers' Market
Rowan Street Farmers' Market
Jessamine County Farmers' Market
Lawrence County Farmers' Market
Lewis County Farmers' Market
Lincoln County Farmers' Market
Logan County Farmers Market
Marion County Farmers' Market
Martin County Farmers' Market
Mason County Farmers' Market
Menifee County Farmers' Market
Mercer County Farmers' Market
Monroe County Farmers' Market
Montgomery County Farmers' Market
Morgan County Farmers' Market
Bardstown Farmers' Market
Owen County Farmers' Market
Pendleton County Farmers' Market
Powell County Farmers' Market
Pulaski Growers' Association
Rockcastle County Farmers' Market
Rowan County Farmers' Market
Russell County Farmers' Market
Scott County Farmers' Market
Farmers' Market Assoc. of Taylor Co.
Woodford County Farmers' Market